

## DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 451 746

HE 033 871

TITLE New Community College Transfer Students at California Public Universities. A California Postsecondary Education Commission Factsheet.

INSTITUTION California State Postsecondary Education Commission, Sacramento.

REPORT NO CPEC-01-02

PUB DATE 2001-01-00

NOTE 4p.

AVAILABLE FROM California Postsecondary Education Commission, 1303 J St., Suite 500, Sacramento, CA 95814. Tel: 919-445-7933; Fax: 916-327-4417.

PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS \*College Students; \*College Transfer Students; \*Community Colleges; Higher Education; Public Colleges

IDENTIFIERS \*California

## ABSTRACT

This factsheet examines the enrollment trends of community college students who transferred to California's public institutions. The opportunity for California students to begin a postsecondary education at a community college and transfer to a four-year institution to complete a baccalaureate degree is a major cornerstone of California's Master Plan for Higher Education. In 1999-2001, 13 of the 22 California State University campuses increased their enrollment of new community college transfer students, and all but 2 of the University of California campuses experienced increases in the number of community college transfer students enrolled. Community college transfers account for about 72% of the entering undergraduate transfer population at the California State University and about 72% of the entering transfer population at the University of California. Data in this factsheet suggest that the decline in the annual number of community college transfers to the public universities may be beginning to reverse. (SLD)

# New Community College Transfer Students at California Public Universities

A CALIFORNIA POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION FACTSHEET



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# New Community College Transfer Students at California Public Universities

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## Trends in new transfer enrollments

The opportunity for California students to begin a postsecondary education at a community college and to transfer to a four-year institution to complete a baccalaureate degree is a major cornerstone of California's Master Plan for Higher Education. This Factsheet examines the enrollment trends of community college students who transferred to the State's public universities.

Recognizing the transfer function as an important facet of educational opportunity, the community colleges' *Partnership for Excellence Program*, in extensive consultation with the California State University (CSU) and the University of California (UC) has established aggressive community college transfer goals: 63,000 community college transfers annually to CSU by year 2005, and 15,000 such transfers to the UC by 2005 (PFE revised goals re-based from 1997-98).

To support these goals, the systems are engaged in several initiatives intended to: (1) improve course articulation, (2) increase joint participation at transfer centers, (3) intensify outreach activities, (4) expand evaluation procedures, and (5) offer more part-time options for UC transfer students.

Prior to these initiatives, the number of community college transfers to the CSU and UC had declined by 2,685 students, or 4.6 percent from 1994-95 through 1998-99. These trends ran counter to the growth in the community college student population and underscored the need for more effective evaluative practices. Despite only partial implementation of the new transfer initiatives in 1999-00, transfers increased by 3,383 or 6.1 percent across both systems.

## Difference among campuses

The statewide increase achieved in 1999-00 was not equally distributed across all campuses within the two public university systems. Thirteen of the 22 CSU campuses increased their enrollment of new community college transfer students between the 1997 and 1999 academic years, as shown in Display 1.

During the same period, as revealed by Display 2, all but two UC campuses experienced increases in the number of community college transfer students enrolled.

*DISPLAY 1 New Community College Transfer Students at the California State University, by Campus, 1997-98 to 1999-00*

<u>Campus</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-00</u>
CSU Bakersfield	783	821	958
CSU Chico	2,111	1,992	2,045
CSU Dominguez	1,499	1,335	1,665
CSU Fresno	2,184	1,991	2,203
CSU Fullerton	3,518	4,126	4,318
CSU Hayward	2,056	1,869	1,901
Humboldt State	971	923	983
CSU Long Beach	3,148	3,264	3,789
CSU Los Angeles	2,230	1,939	2,024
Maritime Academy	42	46	31
CSU Monterey Bay	310	434	451
CSU Northridge	3,388	3,388	3,915
Cal Poly Pomona	2,003	1,977	2,004
CSU Sacramento	3,573	3,664	3,929
CSU San Bernardino	1,924	1,715	1,900
San Diego State	4,322	3,746	3,666
San Francisco State	3,138	3,508	3,499
San Jose State	3,714	3,681	3,555
Cal Poly San Luis	1,342	1,248	1,386
CSU San Marcos	1,074	1,282	1,287
Sonoma State	1,059	1,033	1,057
CSU Stanislaus	<u>1,157</u>	<u>1,007</u>	<u>1,140</u>
Total	45,456	44,989	47,706

*DISPLAY 2 New Community College Transfer Students at the University of California, by Campus, 1997-98 to 1999-00*

<u>Campus</u>	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-00</u>
Berkeley	1,721	1,652	1,682
Davis	1,394	1,371	1,461
Irvine	820	827	877
Los Angeles	2,066	2,054	2,434
Riverside	814	799	851
San Diego	1,186	1,108	1,253
Santa Barbara	1,203	1,459	1,368
Santa Cruz	<u>1,006</u>	<u>891</u>	<u>901</u>
Total	10,210	10,161	10,827

## Transfers to the California State University

Community college transfers account for about 72.0 percent of the CSU entering undergraduate transfer population. As shown in Display 3, community college transfers to the CSU declined from 1995-96 through 1998-99

by 3,699 students, or 7.6 percent. During that period, the number of transfers from all racial/ethnic groups decreased. In 1999-00, Native Americans and Asians decreased in number and proportional representation while all other groups increased. Latinos led the field with a one-year increase of 1,085, or 13.2 percent, along with White transfer students who increased by 673 or 3.7 percent from 1998-99. Systemwide, CCC transfers to CSU increased by 2,717, or 6.0 percent, in that one-year period.

Previous annual declines appear to be associated, in part, with the State University's stricter enforcement of lower-division transfer requirements. Between Fall 1995 and Fall 1999, the enrollment of lower-division transfers declined by 3,694 students, or 9.6 percent per year. During the same period, the enrollment of upper-division community college transfers increased by about 1.4 percent each year.

Also during this period, there was a decline in the CSU community college transfer admission rates among all racial-ethnic categories. Once admitted, approximately 77 percent (ratio of admits to enrollments) of each racial group enrolled and began matriculation. By 1999-00, transfer admission rates for each racial group increased by about 2.0 percentage points, and from .73 to .74 for all groups systemwide.

### *Transfer to the University of California*

Community college transfers usually account for about 72 percent of the entering transfer population at the University of California. As shown in Display 3, community college transfers to the University declined from 1995-96 through 1998-99 by 725 students or roughly 7.0 percent. Like the CSU, the number of transfers from

all racial groups decreased. In 1999-00, Native Americans continued to decline in numbers and proportional representation while all other groups increased. Systemwide, CCC transfers to UC increased by 666, or 6.6 percent, in that one-year period.

Also like the CSU, the overall decline in the enrollment of community college transfers to the University appears to be associated with a shrinking applicant pool and stricter enforcement of lower-division transfer requirements. Between Fall 1995 and Fall 1999, the enrollment of lower-division community college transfers plummeted by 1,145 students, or 55.9 percent. During the same period, the enrollment of upper-division community college transfers increased by 8.8 percent, or 2.2 percent per year. As a result, the number of lower-division transfers, as a proportion of the total community college transfer population, dropped from 21 percent to 9.5 percent.

Analysis of the community college transfer applicant pool revealed a decline in both application and admission rates. Between 1996-97 and 1998-99, the overall number of community college applicants to UC decreased by 7.3 percent while the mean admission rate slipped by 2.6 percentage points to 70.5. The declines were seen across all racial/ethnic categories. In 1999-00, the UC admission rate for Native American transfer students continued to decline significantly and for Whites only slightly. Admission rates for all other racial groups increased by an average of 1.2 percentage points systemwide.

It is encouraging that the overall admission rate of community college transfer students to UC and CSU have improved in the past year. The data in this factsheet suggest that the decline in the annual number of community college transfers to the public universities may be beginning to reverse.

**DISPLAY 3** *New Community College Transfer Students at California Public Universities, 1995-96 to 1999-00*

		California State University					University of California				
Group		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00
Asian	No.	6,562	6,741	6,346	6,230	6,056	2,767	2,863	2,806	2,377	2,800
	%	15.9	16.7	16.7	16.8	15.6	27.7	29.4	30.1	28.6	25.9
Black	No.	2,836	2,799	2,442	2,105	2,257	386	333	293	228	272
	%	6.9	6.9	6.4	5.7	5.8	3.9	3.4	3.1	2.7	2.5
Filipino	No.	1,840	1,867	1,626	1,711	1,776	310	318	340	296	314
	%	4.5	4.6	4.3	4.6	4.6	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.6	2.9
Latino	No.	8,334	8,661	8,464	8,201	9,286	1,503	1,430	1,300	1,302	1,432
	%	20.3	21.5	22.8	22.1	23.9	15.0	14.7	13.9	15.7	13.2
Native American	No.	641	604	565	475	442	137	124	102	97	92
	%	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.2	0.8
White	No.	20,931	19,623	18,341	18,375	19,048	4,888	4,664	4,487	4,000	4,763
	%	50.9	48.7	48.3	49.5	49.0	48.9	47.9	48.1	48.2	44.0
Other	No.										298
	%										2.8
Total*		48,688	48,349	45,546	44,989	47,706	10,886	10,492	10,210	10,161	10,827

\*Total includes non-resident aliens and students who did not report their ethnicity.



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EFF-089 (3/2000)